



# God's Providence at Work

By Jeanie Greene

"The Great Minnesota Get Together" otherwise known as the State Fair is twelve days of family, friendship, fun, food, and fries! It begins in August and ends on Labor Day. This year's fair was a huge celebration which saw an increase of 42% in attendance over last year as Minnesotans and out-of-state visitors were ready to gather and have a spectacular time. Rain in the early days did not dampen the spirits of the more than 1.8 million fun seekers who came to meet new friends, reconnect with familiar faces, try new foods, admire craft projects, interact with the animals, visit exhibits, gather trinkets, play games and of course, experience the rides.

I love all things FAIR! The atmosphere is one of excitement and joy as guests of all ages discover a distinct flavor, experience a new thrill, appreciate the talents of others, and witness the smiles of the young and not so young. I have actively participated as a Foundation Member of the Fair for the last three years and have always enjoyed the many days that I attend. I am very fond of BINGO and have a special affinity for the sweet and sassy alpacas. Choosing a favorite food is a difficult task, along with trying to plan out the various events or exhibits to visit. My family and I enjoy the artistic displays in the agriculture/horticulture building, checking out the creative activities, and tempting our taste buds with culinary delights. We love seeing friends and neighbors and visiting with the out-of-town/state vendors who help to add to the diversity of what is offered each year.

Year after year fans come to the State Fair to try the food. In 2022, there were 500 food items with 80 of them served on a stick! This year, I saw the State Fair through different eyes. As an employee of Holy Family Residence



Happily Receiving Fair Goodies

for 33 years and in the Development Office for the Little Sisters of the Poor for the past 21 years, I have been in touch with dozens of the vendors from the Fair who generously share with our Home when it is over. I have been in telephone contact and on a first name basis for years with so many wonderful people who are happy to donate goods for the Residents. Generally, volunteers accompany two Little Sisters at the beginning of the Fair as they make their way through the fairgrounds visiting food vendors begging items that can be picked up after the last day.

On the day after Labor Day, for the first time ever, my husband and I, along with three sets of volunteers, went from vendor to vendor picking up donations from the various booths. I was able to share the story of the Little Sisters and personally express grateful appreciation for the generosity that was extended to our elderly. I learned a little of what it must have felt like for St. Jeanne Jugan so long ago, as she went begging for what was needed. I saw overwhelming generosity, kindness, and the extension of helping hands as box after box of items were loaded into our three trucks.



I matched faces with voices of vendors I have communicated with for years. I witnessed strangers becoming new friends of the Home as they learned about our mission of helping the elderly poor. This was such an inspiring hands-on experience for me to be able to participate in this effort of outreach for God's elderly.

The bounty that was shared included items such as onions, corn, hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, pizza balls, French fries, ice cream sauce, strawberries, fajitas, fish, shrimp, pineapple, Philly cheesesteak, cheese, donuts, scones, and butter. The amount in pounds was very impressive, but it doesn't come close to matching the impact these goods will have for the meals and treats that will be prepared for our Residents during these trying days of inflation. The employees of the Home and neighboring charities will also share in this bounty. Once again, we are reminded of God's Providence, and are so grateful for the wonderful people of the State Fair who chose to share with the Little Sisters of the Poor.

May God's blessings be with them and their families. See you next year!



## Counting Our Blessings

Our foundress, St. Jeanne Jugan, taught us to be ever grateful for God's Providence, which helped her to care for her first Residents more than 180 years ago and is still a vital part of how the Little Sisters of the Poor are able to carry on her mission of care for the elderly today. Just as she went out daily with her basket to beg for the food and provisions she needed for the elderly in her care, the Little Sisters count on the goodness and generosity of the many market benefactors who help to provide food and staples needed for meals and basic necessities. They also count on the items that are generously donated by family, friends, neighbors and the community at large.

St. Jeanne Jugan knew that she could not do this work alone, and would need the support of many in order for her mission to be successful. She invited young women to join her in her work and began a congregation of Sisters that would eventually

become an international order. She reached out to her local community and welcomed volunteers to assist her.

The Association Jeanne Jugan, a group of laypersons who believe in our charism and mission and who assist the Little Sisters in the Home in various ways, offered the Residents talks about St. Jeanne Jugan during the month of August to help everyone become more aware of and reflect on her life. The Activities staff sponsored fun trivia events to refresh memories and provide additional facts about her.

The month of August culminated with the celebration of her feast day with an inspiring solemn Mass. The Home was honored to have Archbishop Bernard Hebda as presider along with Deacon Phil Stewart. The beautiful liturgy was enhanced by organist Lawrence Lawyer and cantor Tucker Moore from the Cathedral. The work of St. Jeanne Jugan that began in 1839, when she inspired others to see the

face of Christ in the elderly poor, was remembered and honored on this special day.

St. Jeanne Jugan gave thanks each day for God's Providence. It is for this reason that the August fundraiser was called "August Blessings." Named in thanksgiving and in honor of the life of St. Jeanne Jugan, a daily raffle ticket was drawn with winners receiving from \$100 to \$1000. The tickets sold out quickly as our supportive community at large was eager to take part and this resulted in a great success. The top prize was awarded on the Feast Day of St. Jeanne Jugan on August 30. The Home was once again blessed by the fact that 25% of the winners chose to return some of their winnings. When we count our blessings, we include all who help us throughout the year with support, time, and prayers. Each of you are gratefully remembered in the daily prayers and Masses in our Homes throughout the world.

## A Safer Path

The weeds have been cleared, the overgrowth removed, the damaged trees and shrubs have been cut down and prep work completed.

The next step was assessing the walkways and paths around the back of the Home to determine their safety and viability. Repair and/or replacement of well-worn cement happened next. Laborers worked painstakingly to restore the crumbling and deteriorated retaining walls in the apartment garden.

Now, the newly repaved pathways are much safer for all who wish to stroll along and take in the beauty of the recently planted shrubs and flowers. The

landscaping and paving crews worked diligently to restore the beauty of the surroundings and secure the pathways so that feet of all ages, walkers, and scooters can move freely and their owners all can enjoy the peace and tranquility of the gardens. It is wonderful to see families once again being able to utilize the pathways with ease.

We are so grateful to all who supported this project. Our August blessings include all the industrious craftsmen and the wonderful friends, family, and benefactors who added a little tender loving care to our garden and cultivated a reinvigorated and serene setting for our elderly!



Retaining Wall in Progress



Smooth Pathways leading to the Stations of the Cross

## Bridal Blessings

St. Jeanne Jugan said, "Making the elderly happy, that is what counts!" Holy Family Residence is blessed to have dedicated employees who work with the Sisters to attend to the daily needs of the elderly with compassion and kindness.

On a bright summer afternoon on August 1, Yvonne Dukuly stopped by our Home on her way to the wedding reception. She and her new husband, Pastor Trokon Karyeah, had just been married earlier that day and she came with her entire wedding party to greet our Residents.

The lovely bride is a medication technician for the Home and has lovingly assisted and cared for our elderly for the past seven years. She wanted to share her joy, and it was our blessing to be included in her special day.

Yvonne was greeted with a huge round of applause and many well wishes as she and Trokon begin a new life together.

May God bless them and their future!



Yvonne & Trokon share the joy of their Special Day

## MOTHER'S MESSAGE

We are so grateful for all who generously supported our summer newsletter project of the repaving of the garden walkways. We also appreciate the incredible response to our "August Blessings" raffle. Congratulations to all who had the winning tickets!

We look forward to the festivities of October, including the celebration of the anniversaries of the canonization and birthday of St. Jeanne Jugan on October 11 and 25. October is also the month of the Holy Rosary, with the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7. As autumn settles in with the changing of the leaves and the beautiful colors that grace our surroundings, we also anticipate a few bus rides for our Residents.

Our Congregation's General Chapter was held in France recently and Mother General Maria del Monte Auxiliadora was reelected for a second six-year term. Serving on the General Council are Mother Assistant Joseph Christine from Scotland, Mother Assistant Patricia Yvonne from Chile, Mother Assistant Marie Helen du St. Esprit from France, Mother Sophie de St. Joseph from France, Mother Assistant Brigid Mary of Jesus from Nigeria, and Mother Marie Rose from India, representing the internationality of our Congregation.

We are replacing the 45-year-old huge underground storage tank with a much smaller, state-of-the-art, energy efficient 11 foot tank. The proceeds of this newsletter will go towards the funding of this project. We are so grateful and appreciative of your generous response.

Before you know it, the holiday season will be upon us. We wish you and your family warm and wonderful gatherings. We do regret to announce that there will not be a Boutique held in November this year. Thank you again for being a blessing in the lives of all at Holy Family Residence!

May God bless you always,  
*Mother Theresa Gertrude*



## Ways to Give

### General Gifts:

Either one time or sign up online for a recurring gift of any amount at the frequency you choose.

### Tribute Gift:

In honor of someone for a Birthday, Anniversary or other special occasion.

### Memorial Gift:

In memory of a loved one or friend.

### Planned Giving:

Bequests have been one of the most meaningful sources of funds for the mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Through the generosity of so many, the Little Sisters have been blessed to continue their work for the elderly. Consider making a legacy gift to the Little Sisters of the Poor through a Living Trust, Charitable Remainder Trust, Life Insurance Beneficiary, Retirement Plan Beneficiary or a provision in your Will.

### AmazonSmile:

Signup for AmazonSmile and designate Little Sisters of the Poor St. Paul as your charity, and a portion of your purchases will be donated to us.

Visit our website <https://www.littlesistersofthepoorstpaul.org>

## OUR MISSION AND VALUES



### Serving the elderly poor in St. Paul since 1883.

Continuing the work of Saint Jeanne Jugan, our MISSION is to offer the neediest elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.

*Reverence for Life ♦ Family Spirit ♦  
Humble Service ♦ Compassion ♦  
Stewardship*